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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **YOKOTA, Hiroshi, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **1724**

Serial No.: **10/539,747**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **June 20, 2005**

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For: **GAS-LIQUID SEPARATOR**

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 13, 2006

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the PCT Notification of Transmittal of Copies of Translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report attached herewith.

This Notification is submitted herewith to be placed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office file of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PCT Notification of Transmittal of Copies of Translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)
(PCT Rule 72.2)

To:

KABUSHIKI KAISHA YOKOTA SEISAKUSHO
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JAPON

Date of mailing (<i>day/month/year</i>) 29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT-YS-03001	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/016734	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25 December 2003 (25.12.2003)
Applicant KABUSHIKI KAISHA YOKOTA SEISAKUSHO et al	

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

AZ, CA, CH, CN, EP, KG, KR, MK, RO, RU, TM

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EA, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, OA, PL, PT, SD, SE, SG, SK, TJ, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Yoshiko Kuwahara
Facsimile No.+41 22 740 14 35	Facsimile No.+41 22 338 90 90



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT-YS-03001	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/016734	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 December 2003 (25.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 26 December 2002 (26.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B01D 19/00		
Applicant KABUSHIKI KAISHA YOKOTA SEISAKUSHO		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

☒ Box No. I Basis of the report

☐ Box No. II Priority

☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited

☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)	Date of completion of this report 11 March 2005 (11.03.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/016734

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☒ The international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	2, 5, 9	YES
	Claims	1, 3, 4, 6-8	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2, 5, 9	YES
	Claims	1, 3, 4, 6-8	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

It is considered that 1) "a casing", 2) "a discharge impellor", 3) "a fluid discharge opening", 4) "a gas outlet", 5) "a vacuum device", 6) "a fluid inlet", 7) "a fluid suction hole", 8) "a baffling member", 9) "a fluid-throttling means", 10) "a heating means", 11) "a protection means", and 12) "a cavitation-producing means", which are essential components of each of the subject matters of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 of the present application, correspond to 13) "an outer shell of a degasifying pump", 14) "an impellor for separating gas from liquid 8 and an impellor of a main pump 2", 15) "an opening to let a passage on the discharge side communicate with a degasifying pump", 16) "an opening to let a gas discharge passage communicate with a degasifying pump", 17) "a vacuum device 12", 18) "a passage on the suction side", 19) "an opening to let a passage on the suction side communicate with a degasifying pump", 20) "an impellor of an auxiliary pump 5", 21) "a throttling means 17", 22) "a heating means 18", 23) "a reservoir tank 15", and 24) "a cavitation-producing means of ultrasonic oscillation type or other types" in the document cited in the ISR, listed below, and so it is considered that the said document describes the subject matters of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 of the present application.

Accordingly, the subject matters of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 of the present application do not appear to be novel or to involve an inventive step.

Document: WO, 01-002732, A1 (K.K. Yokota Seisakusho), 11 January, 2001 (11.01.01)